Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our second newsletter for term four which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on Presentation Night, the last few weeks of Year 12, school attendance and promoting our great school.

North Bundaberg State High School celebrates student achievement.

I hope you were able to join with us last Tuesday night at the annual Presentation Night to celebrate the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of our students. The feedback from the school community has been overwhelmingly positive with community members expressing high levels of satisfaction and praise for the organization of the evening, student entertainment and achievements. The success of the evening would not have been possible without the support of our great staff. Many staff contributed to the success of the night but the work of Robyn Kent and Trish Sellers was quite outstanding and without their commitment to quality we would not have enjoyed as much success. Congratulations to all staff and students for your contribution to what was a night to be remembered and a further thank you to the many community sponsors who also provide generous support for our awards.

I have included here an extract from my report, a message to our students:

“My thanks and congratulations to both parents and students for your efforts and support and a special congratulation to our prize-winners tonight - well done on your achievements. To our continuing students, believe in your dreams and take every opportunity by both hands and make the most of them, continue to shine and be the best you can be. As Mary Kay Ash a successful American businesswoman, novelist and founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics said “Don’t limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe remember is what you achieve”.

To our graduating Year 12 students, I give you the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American essayist, lecturer, and poet who championed self-reliance and individualism. “We are all inventors, each sailing our own voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates and all opportunities”.

Congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the future make sure you sail your own voyage of discovery and make the most of your opportunities. It is usual for these speeches to contain an inspirational message but tonight I have focused on the progress we have made in our improvement journey. I hope that I have provided a message that I and our staff take seriously our responsibility for ensuring the well-being and future success of every student who enrols at this great school. I have left the inspirational work to our award winners, who by their presence here tonight, from whom inspiration should come from and the message of that presence is that optimism, commitment, persistence and good old fashioned hard work will always produce outstanding achievements.”

Please follow the links to a full transcript of the Principal’s Report.
The countdown begins for Year 12 students

Our Year 12 students are now entering the last few weeks of formal schooling and I write to ensure that our students remain focused on completing remaining assessment and competencies for vocational qualifications. For most students a strong finish to their schooling can make the difference between getting a QCE or not getting one. This is a time for balance and to ensure that students do not become distracted by early celebrations of the completion of schooling. Student safety is also a concern for all of us at any time but it is more so at this time of year. All too often, at this time of the year we find reported in our media details of car accidents involving young people, which serves as a timely reminder of the potential dangers faced by our students. I encourage you to discuss with your student the absolute need for the students to celebrate safely and within school expectations and the law.

Successful students attend school regularly

School attendance in Queensland is compulsory for all students up to the completion of Year 10 or when the student turns 16. Students are then expected to participate in an eligible option of either fulltime schooling, participation in an apprenticeship or a certificate three level qualification at TAFE or employment of 25 hours or more a week. It has been shown that regular student attendance at school helps to improve student performance. Did you know that?

- Strong links have been established between attendance in one year and student achievement in the same year and in the future.
- Students not present in school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning.
- The recommended attendance range is between 95 and 100% attendance rate which is equivalent of being absent for 10 days or less per year. Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% [16 absent days or more] of the time will have lost almost 1 year of school contact.

Our attendance rate trend for all year levels is:

Year 8: 91.04 %, Year 9: 85.86 %, Year 10: 85.16, Year 11: 89.37%, Year 12: 89.57%

I ask you to check your student’s attendance rate and if it is in excess of 10 days or more per year I encourage you to contact the school so we can discuss ways to resolve this situation with you.

Marketing Our School

If you have been listening to 4BU lately, you may have heard our radio advertisement promoting our school in the community. [Please follow the quicklinks to hear the advertisement] We have also been fortunate enough to gain a small amount of air time to talk about our school. This is just two of a number of ways we market our school, other ways include newspaper advertising, our website and facebook page, days of excellence, Presentation Night and shortly we will be issuing a community newsletter. However no stronger marketing than word of mouth or the BBQ conversation to get a message across. For this I am relying upon you as parents to spread the good news about North High to those who don’t know or don’t send their students to our school. I am seeking your assistance with this and ask you to tell a friend or someone in your family about the qualities of this school and the benefits their children would gain from attending this school.

In conclusion, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education as together we can produce the best outcomes for your student.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL
**Dates to Remember:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29th October</td>
<td>Spring Carnival Arts Night at school hall 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st October</td>
<td>Immunisations, Yr 8 and Yr 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th November</td>
<td>eLearning Program information, 6:30pm school hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>North High Senior Prom</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd December</td>
<td>Yr 6 &amp; 7 Orientation Day</td>
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**North High P & C**

Hi to all parents, your P & C association has operated since the establishment of this great school. We act at a level between the parents and the school, to hear what is going on, have an input to many decisions and events that occur throughout the school year, and to provide items for the students and staff that are not part of the school budget. This is why the Tuckshop operates, as well as providing healthy food for your child's hungry stomach.

Currently we need new members to operate efficiently. There are just a handful of dedicated parents and other interested persons, left to run the P & C and make decisions that ultimately affect you. Please seriously consider regularly attending the meetings, which are held at the school on the first Thursday of every month at 5 pm; the next is on the 6th of November. Without your help, the future of the P & C is questionable, and its demise would be of serious consequence to you and your children. Please make an effort to be part of this important committee. If there are enough of you interested, but find the current meeting time inconvenient or impossible, it can be changed to 7 pm. Contact the office to indicate your interest.

Roger Burtt - President
STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

On 21st October, we held our annual Presentation Parade and Presentation Night. Congratulations to all those students who received certificates and awards. It was wonderful to see so many students achieving good results. Thank you to the many students and staff who worked behind the scenes, entertained or helped host the evening. Our Presentation Ceremonies are only made possible by having a hard-working team and I’d sincerely like to thank everyone who helped out in any way. Thank you to the parents and family members who attended the ceremonies to help celebrate our student successes and thank you to the many sponsors for their kind donations towards our awards.

Robyn Kent
Senior Deputy Principal
P & C Meeting Thursday 6th November, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!

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www.bundnortshs.eq.edu.au
UQ Young Achiever’s Program

Congratulations to year 10 students, Chloe White and Jacob Watson, who have been accepted into the University of Queensland’s Young Achiever’s program. The program is designed to provide incentive for students to attend University. It carries a number of benefits including: ongoing support and mentoring from current UQ students; on-campus residential experiences at UQ; financial assistance of $1000 per year in years 11 and 12 to assist with educational costs and scholarship support of $6000 per year, while studying at University.

Chloe and Jacob were presented with their awards by UQ Young Achiever’s staff at the Burnett Riverside Hotel on the 9th October.

2014 Senior Prom

Preparations are well underway for the North High Senior Prom on Thursday, 20th November. It is an exciting time for our Year 12 students. Students will need to complete their clearance forms that they have been issued to ensure they are eligible to attend. Tickets will go on sale on 30th October and the price will be $65.00.

Students arrival at the Prom will be staggered, and begin at 5:00pm. When advised, students will be able to request the time they would like to arrive. There will be an area for parents to stand and view arrivals plus an area for the public. Parents will be able to view the room with all of the decorations between 4pm – 4:45pm only.

More details will be released as they are confirmed, and will also be available on the website www.bundnortshs.eq.edu.au

North High Spring Carnival Arts Night

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE NORTH HIGH SPRING CARNIVAL ARTS NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR, WITH PRICES BELOW.

COME ALONG TO THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL AND ENJOY A SHOWCASE OF TALENT FROM OUR STUDENTS.

ADULTS - $5.00
STUDENTS - $2.00
UNDER SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ARE FREE

P & C Meeting Thursday 6th November, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
North’s athletic success

Two of North High’s most successful Junior athletes were selected for inclusion in the recent Qld School Sports, Commonwealth Bank Track and Field Championships held in Brisbane. Ashley Ibels was unfortunately not able to attend the meet, but Year 9 student, Kodey Sarndasky competed at the Qld Sport and Athletic Centre in the 200 metres, long jump, and high jump. Kodey finished 2nd on a count-back, jumping the same height at the national champion. He has now qualified for the Australian All Schools Championship in Adelaide in December. He has also qualified for the elite Australian Junior Athletics Championships in Sydney in March 2015, where only elite athletes from each state are selected to compete. Well done, Kodey, you have done us proud.

Collection of the Year 12 take home devices

As it is a very busy and exciting time for our Yr 12 students, we want to ensure that the process of collecting their take home devices runs as smoothly as possible.

We are approaching this in two ways, depending if students need their devices for exam week or not. Please decide which option best suits your needs and plan to return your device during the times indicated below.

You MUST have your tablet, satchel (including strap) and both keyboard and tablet charger ready when returning the device. Please clean the screen and keyboard as a courtesy, so our job is made a little easier.

Week 6: November 10 - 14
Exam week - hand in when no longer required

Morning tea – at the common room (where you received them)

Week 7: Mon 17th - Period 1 & Period 5
Tues 18th – Period 1

If these times are not suitable or you wish to return the device before these dates please see Mrs Norris to discuss this.

Yr 11 Take Home Program Information
As our Yr 11 students will continue on with their studies in 2015 we see it unnecessary for students to hand back their Acer tablets at this point in time. Students who are continuing their participation in the Take Home Program will keep their devices over the Christmas holiday period. As parents have already signed the Charter of Agreement to participate in the program we do not see any benefit or need to collect the devices now, and then hand them out at the beginning of next year. Families will be invoiced the annual cost for program participation in 2015, which remains unchanged at $125.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please contact Mrs Gail Norris - eLearning Head of Department before November 14.
Invitation to all Yr 10 Students & Parents to attend the
eLearning Program Information Evening

When: Monday, 10 November
Time: 6.30pm – 7.00pm
Where: School Hall, Marks Street

It is important that all Yr 10 parents attend this evening as your student will be participating in the Senior School eLearning Program that is run at North Bundaberg SHS.